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College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University | New York, N.Y. 10032

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

630 West 158th Street

AQ 660

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

March 13, 1981

Minister of Interior General A. Harquindeguy  
Casa de Gobierno  
Balcarce 50  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dear General:

The Committee on Human Rights of the United States National Academy of Sciences recently informed me of press reports of the arrest of the noted physicist, Dr. Jose Federico Westerkamp apparently because of his support of human rights activities.

As a fellow scientist and a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences I am writing on behalf of Dr. Westerkamp and indeed all supporters of human rights in Argentina. I urge that Dr. Westerkamp and other members of the Center of Legal and Social Studies (Emilio Mignone, Augusto Comte Macdonell, Carmen Lapaco and Boris Pasik) be released forthwith unless supportable publically announced charges can be produced.

Your assurance of the personal safety and well-being of Dr. Westerkamp and his colleagues would be most appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*A.S. Edelman*

I.S. Edelman, M.D.  
Robert Wood Johnson, Jr.  
Professor of Biochemistry

ISE/sf

cc: Lipman Bers  
Mrs. J. Westerkamp  
Philip Handler  
Alexander Haig  
Jorge A. Aja Espil

Lot 82D275  
Box 3541  
(2/17)